

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: MAJOR SPEECH BY UUUC LEADER

1. CONGEN FORWARDS COMPLETE TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY HEAD OF OFFICIAL UNIONISTS AND LEADER OF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) HARRY WEST AT RALLY IN ULSTER HALL BEFAST MARCH 15. CONGEN DEPARTS FROM USUAL PURSUIT BREVITY IN THIS INSTANCE BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF SPEECH, EXPLANATION CONTAINED THEREIN FOR UUUC ACTIONS IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, INDICATIONS OF FUTURE POLICY AND CLUES TO PRESSURES WITHIN COALITION. WEST IS HIMSELF A RELATIVELY MODERATE LOYALIST AND HEADS THE MOST MODERATE GROUP WITHIN THE UUUC. NOT ALL ULSTER POLITICIANS WOULD AGREE THAT HMG IS FOLLOWING A PLAN OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF POINTS OR ANY TIMETABLE TO BRING ABOUT A UNITED IRELAND. HOWEVER, SINCE THE CONVENTION THE REPORTING OFFICER HAS NOT ENCOUNTERED A SINGLE ARTICULATE ULSTER INDIVIDUAL, OF ANY PERSUASION, WHO DOES NOT PROFESS BELIEF THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT SOMEHOW INTENDS TO PUSH PROVINCE AWAY FROM U.K. ULSTER PEOPLE DO NOT NECESSARILY BELIEVE HMG HAS TAKEN ANY POLICY DECISION IN THIS DIRECTION, HAS DEVISED A STRATEGY OR HAS AN END IN MIND. ULSTER PEOPLE "FEEL" HOWEVER THAT THE ONE THING BRITISH WANT OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS OUT.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

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WORDS LIKE "POWER-SHARING," "PARTNERSHIP," "COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT"

AND SO ON WERE FREELY USED DURING THE CONVENTION DEBATES. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THESE WORDS IN THEMSELVES BUT IN PRACTICE THEY WERE NARROWED DOWN TO MEAN PROSTITUTING THE WHOLE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE MERELY TO SERVE THE AMBITION AND GREED OF A SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY WHICH HAD BEEN UNABLE TO WIN FOR ITSELF THE SUPPORT OF EVEN A QUARTER OF THE ELECTORAL SUPPORT WITHIN THE PROVINCE. WE SAW FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CONVENTION THAT IF WE WERE TO DEVIATE FROM OUR ELECTION PLEDGES ON THE MAIN ISSUES WE WOULD OUTRAGE A LARGE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY - PROBABLY A MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY AND THUS THE CRITERION OF WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE WOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED. MORE IMPORTANT STILL, WE WERE NOT GOING TO BREAK FAITH WITH THE ULSTER ELECTORATE OR BE DISLOYAL TO OUR OWN POLITICAL INTEGRITY. IN THE CONVENTION REPORT WE SPELLED OUT WHAT WE HONESTLY BELIEVE IS THE BEST SCHEME FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF OUR PEOPLE. WE ARE NOT NOW GOING TO TURN OUR COATS AND SAY DISHONESTLY THAT WE HAVE ALL SUDDENLY COME TO BELIEVE IN ITS OPPOSITE. FROM MANY QUARTERS THERE HAS SUDDENLY COME THE SPECULATION THAT THE UUUC COALITION HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE AND IS GOING TO BREAK UP OR FALL APART. I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE STAND UNITED ON THE MANIFESTO ON WHICH WE FOUGHT THE CONVENTION ELECTION AND ON THE CONVENTION REPORT. WE ARE, OF COURSE, A COALITION. WE ARE NOT IDENTICAL TRIPLETS. EACH OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES IN THE COALITION HAS ITS DISTINCTIVE ATTITUDES AND POLICIES AND ABOVE ALL, ITS LIBERTY.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE? INEVITABLY A BIG PART OF OUR FUTURE LIES WITH WHATEVER BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS IN OFFICE. MANY OF OUR PEOPLE ARE PUZZLED AS TO WHY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BEHAVES THE WAY IT DOES. THE ANSWER IS FAIRLY SIMPLE. IT IS NOT BECAUSE IT CARES ALL THAT MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OR ME OR ANYBODY IN ULSTER. THAT IS VERY OBVIOUS BY THE INDIRECT WAY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS USING SOMETHING WHICH DOESN'T BELONG TO IT - ULSTER LIVES - IN BARGAINING WITH THE IRA TO PREVENT BOMBINGS IN ENGLAND. IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE IT DEPENDS ON THE VOTES OF IMMIGRANTS FROM THE IRISH REPUBLIC WHO NOW HOLD THE BALANCE OF POLITICAL POWER IN FIFTY OR SIXTY BRITISH CONSTITUENCEIES. TO PLEASE THEM, TO WIN THEIR VOTES, FOR HIS PARTY THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER SOME YEARS BACK DECLARED A TEN POINT SCHEME FOR INCORPORATING NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC IN FIFTEEN YEARS' TIME. HE HAS NOT GONE BACK ON THAT STATEMENT BUT A NUMBER OF YEARS HAVE PASSED AND THE SCHEME IS UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPING TO SCHEDULE.

THE PRESENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NO WISH OR INTENTION THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SHOULD BE SUCCESSFUL OR APPEAR TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THE PRESENT DIRECT RULE REGIME IS NATURALLY ORIENTED TO IMPLEMENTING HAROLD WILSON'S DECLARATION THAT WE SHALL BE INCORPORATED IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC IN SO MANY YEARS' TIME. THE WHOLE ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IS AT PRESENT

OBTAINING THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THAT, AND WE MUST EQUALLY BE PREPARED TO RESIST.

DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS OF THIS GOVERNMENT FROM STORMONT CASTLE THE REAL BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES, WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT TO OUR PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN OBSCURED. THE GUNMEN HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY ENCOURAGED, CONCILIATED AND APPEASED. IT IS TO THEM AND NOT TO US THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THOUGHT IT NECESSARY, AS THEY HAVE TOLD US, TO EXPLAIN THEIR POLICY. DO YOU REMEMBER THE COMPLIMENT WHICH WAS PAID TO OUR FORMER STORMONT ADMINISTRATION BY SIR EDMUND COMPTON? HE SAID IT WAS MUCH MORE ACCESSIBLE AND SERVED THE PUBLIC BETTER THAN THE ADMINISTRATION IN BRITAIN - THAT ADMINISTRATION

OF OURS HAS BECOME A CLOSED SHOP FOR THE MEN FROM WHITEHALL.

THE INDUSTRIES WHICH WE HAD IN THE PAST SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING IN ULSTER ARE BEING CLOSED DOWN AND DISMANTLED ONE BY ONE SO ARE THE SHIPPING LINKS THAT CARRIED OUR TRADE AND BROUGHT US OUR TOURISTS. OVER FORTY FACTORIES BUILT BY OUR OWN GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST NOW STAND EMPTY AND WILL PROBABLY BECOME DERELICT. OUR AGRICULTURE IS BEING PUT ON A FOOTING INFERIOR TO THAT OF EIRE. HOUSING IN WHICH WE WERE AT ONE TIME PROPORTIONALLY marginally AHEAD OF BRITAIN IS NOW A CHAOTIC AND COSTLY MUDDLE UNDER A CENTRALISED ORGANIZATION ANSWERABLE TO NOBODY HERE IN ULSTER. IT IS NOT PROVIDING THE HOUSES THE PUBLIC SO URGENTLY NEED AND IN CERTAIN AREAS IT IS ALLEGED THAT IT IS BEING TORTUOUSLY MANIPULATED WITH PARTY-POLITICAL MOTIVES.

I NEED NOT CONTINUE THE SORRY STORY. WE HAVE AN URGENT TASK BEFORE US. THE END OF THE CONVENTION IS NOT THE END OF ACTIVE POLITICS. IT MUST ON THE CONTRARY OPEN A TIME WHEN POLITICAL ACTION WILL BECOME MORE VIGOROUS THAN EVER. WE MUST GET ON THE BACKS OF THIS DIRECT RULE ADMINISTRATION. WE MUST PROVIDE OUR OVERWORKED AND UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDERSTAFFED TEAM OF REPRESENTATIVES AT WESTMINSTER WITH THE FACTUAL AND OTHER SUPPORT WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO PRESS EFFECTIVELY FOR THE RIGHTING OF MANY WRONGS AND INJUSTICES THAT NOW OPPRESS OUR PEOPLE, FOR THE ADOPTION OF SANE AND EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT AND FOR IMMEDIATE VISIBLE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

VERY NATURALLY THERE IS MUCH DEBATE AS TO HOW FAR THE PRESSURE THAT WE MUST MOUNT ON THE PRESENT REGIME CAN BE CONFINED TO PURELY POLITICAL ACTION WITHIN THE EXISTING LEGAL STRUCTURE. I MYSELF HAVE STILL ENOUGH FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE, BRITISH HUMAN NATURE, TO BELIEVE THAT FOR THE PRESENT WE HAVE STILL TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROCEEDING YET BY OTHER MEANS.

THE RESOURCES AND POSSIBILITIES OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURE OF LAW AND INSTITUTIONS, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY PERVERTED AND BENT AGAINST US, ARE VERY FAR FROM HAVING BEEN EXHAUSTED, AND IN OUR NEW SITUATION, UNDER INCREASINGLY CYNICAL AND NAKED DICTATORSHIP, WE STILL HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXERTING ENORMOUS PRESSURES UPON THOSE WHO ARBITRARILY RULE US AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT KEPT FAITH WITH US.

ONLY IN SOME MUCH MORE DIRE SITUATION WOULD I EXPECT TO SEE A WIDESPREAD READINESS FOR THE GENERAL ADOPTION OF ANOTHER KIND OF ACTION, OUTSIDE THE LAW AND OUTSIDE EXISTING STRUCTURES, THOUGH I SHOULD NOT BE ALTOGETHER SURPRISED IF THERE SHOULD, HERE AND THERE, APPEAR INCREASING TRENDS IN THAT DIRECTION.

THE MORE THE BALLOT BOX IS DEVALUED AND DEMONSTRATED AS USELESS, THE MORE PEOPLE TURN TO OTHER METHODS OF ASSERTING THE PUBLIC WILL. BUT AS I READ THE SITUATION, THAT GENERALL READINESS TO TURN IN THAT DIRECTION IS NOT WIDESPREAD AT THIS MOMENT, THOUGH IT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN INCREASED BY THE BURDEN OF EVENTS. I AM STILL CONTENT TO LEAVE WILD WORDS ABOUT BLOODBATHS AND UDI TO THE EXCITABLE PROPHETS OF DOOM WHO HAVE ENJOYED THEMSELVES MAKING SUCH PREDICTIONS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO OTHER ROLE OPEN TO THEM. UNQUOTE SPICER

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